

entity for taking a legal action against.

As shown above, the conventional method of inserting a specific code in the digital music file or encrypting the music file, and method of restraining a distribution of the music file by compulsory means are problematic in that it is difficult to substantially prevent a direct sharing of the music files between the users and an illegal reproduction on the communication network.

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, the present invention has been made in view of the above problem, and it is an object of the present invention to provide a method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through the communication network, by distributing the digital music files with low or damaged sound quality on the network in place of restraining an illegal reproduction and distribution, and using the distributed music files only for "Pre-Listening".

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, the above and other objects can be accomplished by the provision of a method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a communication network, comprising the steps of

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a)producing an advertising digital music file by deteriorating
or damaging a sound quality of an original music file of a
record of a cooperating record corporation; and b)distributing
the advertising digital music file through the communication
5 network.

In accordance with another aspect of the present
invention, there is provided a method of preventing reduction
of sales amount of records due to a digital music file
illegally distributed through a communication network,
10 comprising the steps of: a)collecting an illegally produced
digital music file, which is derived from a record of a
cooperating record corporation by searching the communication
network; b)editing the collected digital music file to
deteriorate or damage the sound quality of it; and
15 c)distributing the edited digital music file through the
communication network again.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The above and other objects, features and advantages of
the present invention will be more clearly understood from the
following detailed description taken in conjunction with the
accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a system for performing
25 a method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records

according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a flowchart showing a method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through a communication network
5 according to preferred embodiment of this invention;

Figs. 3 through 6 are views of examples showing a generation and editing of a digital music file using a well-known software tool of this invention;

Fig. 7 is a flowchart showing a method according to
10 another preferred embodiment of this invention; and

Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 are views showing a search for illegally produced digital music file using a well-known music file sharing program.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a system for performing a method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed through the communication network. Referring to Fig. 1, the system
20 comprises a searching and editing terminal 10, music file sharing servers 20-1~20-n, music file user terminals 30-1~30-n, and a network N. The terminals 10, 30-1~30-n and the servers 20-1~20-n are commonly connected to the network N such
25 as an Internet through various well-known devices like a modem